

The Shelburne gathering followed Leahy's early August announcement that he had secured committee approval to include \$5 million in the federal budget to establish a National Farm-to-School Institute at Shelburne Farms.

The proposed national institute will expand the reach of the existing Vermont-based Northeast Farm to School Institute currently run by Vermont FEED (Food Education Every Day), a nonprofit partnership managed by Shelburne Farms and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont.

Founded in 2000, Vermont FEED has been instrumental in fostering connections between Vermont schools and farms—from the cafeteria to the classroom—in support of improved childhood nutrition, local agriculture and lifelong wellness.

The organization's influence spread beyond the state's borders until it was codified when Vermont FEED established the Northeast Farm to School Institute in 2010. The institute has helped share best practices via training and coaching in more than 100 schools and districts in New England and New York.

States from Massachusetts to Nebraska have also worked with the Northeast Farm to School Institute to build their own successful statewide programs.

Shortly after the Mississippi Farm to School Network was established in 2015, co-director Sunny Baker visited Vermont for a workshop.

"We knew right away Vermont was the model," Baker said over the phone. "It's not one-size-fits-all. It's about putting power back into the communities while providing formal support to help them connect the three Cs," she said, referring to cafeteria, classroom and community. "It's less top-down, more roots-up."

Anna Mullen, spokesperson for the National Farm to School Network, described Vermont as a national leader in creating and propagating effective farm-to-school models and in leveraging critical legislative support. In a phone interview, she noted that the state was the first to create a farm-to-school grant program in 2006 and that Leahy has long been "a huge champion" of the movement at the federal level.

The pending federal line item would fund expansion of "a really impactful . . . coaching and support model that brings together teams to fit the needs of their school and achieve the vision of their own community," Mullen said. The proposal to take it national "is a testament to a model that's really helping and working."

At Shelburne Farms in August, Antony continued to share why he was drawn to farm-to-school. In middle school, he said, he took a sustainability course that taught him about the food system. Joining the farm-to-school club deepened his understanding of the "inner workings" of how schools source and prepare food, Antony explained.

During the pandemic, he and his co leaders worked hard to keep fellow members connected to the club and to one another through virtual farm tours and Harvest of the Month recipe contests, Antony said. They created recipes with beets, sweet potatoes and dairy at home, for example, and then took virtual tours of farms that produced those foods.

"Keeping the students engaged, telling them where their food comes from, making them informed about what they eat really creates a better environment and healthier kids," Antony concluded.

"I wish I'd had you testify before the committees," Leahy said, drawing an appreciative chuckle from the group.

A couple weeks after meeting the senator and agriculture secretary, Antony met with

Seven Days in the Harwood cafeteria along with three other teens in the farm-to-school club. Joining the four were Paul Morris, co-director of food and nutrition services for the Harwood Unified Union School District; Paul Kramer, a teacher and club faculty adviser; and Jen Dreimiller, a school counselor who is also on Harwood's farm-to-school team. That team is composed of teachers, staff, students and community members working to deepen the high school's farm-to-school efforts.

Like Antony, Miranda Rayfield of Fayston and Macie Whalen of Northfield are 16 and just started 11th grade. The trio leads the club. The students look forward to getting back into the cafeteria kitchen with "chef Paul," as they call Morris, to design, prepare and serve Harvest of the Month taste tests. While they enjoyed the monthly recipe contests that Antony had described to Leahy and Vilsack, sharing the results of their efforts remotely wasn't the same.

"We provided the food, and [members of the school community] got to make something out of it and share it via a slideshow we'd show at an online school assembly," Whalen explained. Photographs of beet recipes included a mouthwatering array of several different beet-chocolate cakes; beet-tahini pasta; a beet and potato roesti; and a version of halwa, the traditional Indian sweet, made with beets.

"Some people think vegetable are 'gross and disgusting,'" Whalen said. "But then when they cook with them and see or taste what others have made, they might change their mind."

"When you share it with the whole school, it gets more attention," Antony added.

During the pandemic, the students drew other benefits from their shared cooking experience. "You were at home, locked down. It gave us a great way to connect," Whalen said. "Like, Jeswin's sweet potato and black bean curry—it looked so good! [We were asking each other,] 'Did he send the recipe?' It was really cool to be connected through food."

Haley MacDonald, 13, of Moretown, joined the club last year when she was in seventh grade. With the kale she received through the club, she made two kinds of kale chips at home: one salted and the other sweetened with a little maple syrup.

"It was my first time making them myself," MacDonald said proudly in the cafeteria. Her family, including her 9-year-old twin brothers, inhaled them. "They were gone in a minute."

"It also helped me realize there are lots of local farms," MacDonald said. "Like, 'Oh, I got kale from there.' It's really cool to be able to cook with what they grow and support them."

During a virtual farm visit to Butterworks Farm in Westfield, Whalen described excitedly, "They showed us their cows and their butter compared to store-bought butter. You could literally see the difference in color."

"And texture," Rayfield said. "You could almost feel the love."

"I've gotten a whole community out of it," Whalen continued. In addition to the teachers and chef Paul at school, she said, that includes the farmers. "It's a community beyond Harwood Union High School."

The 5-year-old club is just one aspect of the district's well-established farm-to-school program.

Morris, the food and nutrition services co-director, has been sourcing from local farms all 15 years he has worked at Harwood. But, while the cafeteria was lauded initially for its fresh, locally sourced menu, Morris said there was untapped opportunity. "It was not super connected to teachers and staff. It was us trying to push it out," he said.

Enter the Northeast Farm to School Institute. Six years ago, a team of Harwood school and community members started meeting regularly with a coach from Vermont FEED to build on efforts in the school kitchen. That was what "kind of got the ball rolling," Morris said.

"The program really started to gain momentum when students had experience outside the cafeteria," he said. "They didn't want to talk about it; they wanted to do things."

This fall, Harwood students will return to a neighboring nonprofit farm, Living Tree Alliance in Moretown. There, they have moved mulch, planted hazelnuts, made sauerkraut and learned how the farmers rotate their small flock of sheep to graze different paddocks. The farm has sold Harwood cabbage and potatoes for use in its cafeteria.

One Harwood civics and social studies teacher used grant money to build a hoop house behind the school in which students grow salad greens. These, too, become cafeteria fare.

The farm-to-school team came up with a local food challenge offered to all home-rooms: Students tasted something locally grown and learned about the concept of food miles and the benefits of buying closer to home. Farm-to-school club members even collaborated with students in a graphic design course to develop a logo emblazoned with a shovel and fork and the words "community, cafeteria, classroom."

Kramer, the club's faculty adviser, said he was pleased when students asked how they could build advocacy skills and help others access local food. Last year, a group of club members partnered with a local gleaner organization to pick apples at a Randolph orchard to donate to area food shelves. Antony and a student who has now graduated worked with Vermont FEED to testify in front of the state legislature.

"We are very grateful to eat this healthy, local food, but not everyone gets to," Antony said in the cafeteria.

"The students are seeing the larger picture," Kramer said. "Farm-to-school is a great, tangible lens for kids to understand things like equity and social justice. They are understanding how things are connected and using that understanding to find leverage points to solve problems."

Being involved in farm-to-school, Antony said, has opened his eyes to the complexity of the food system and to his own ability to make a difference.

"It's all intertwined: nutrition, the education system, the legislative system, even waste," he said. "There's massive change we can do in all those spheres. I want to take some action."

CONGRATULATING THE VERMONT LAKE MONSTERS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize the iconic Vermont Lake Monsters and their championship victory in the team's first season as members of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League. The Vermont Lake Monsters have seen various iterations over the years, and the determination, grit, and resilience of the team's players, coaches, staff, and fans are clear to all Vermonters and fans of the team.

The Lake Monsters began in 1994 with establishment of the Vermont Expos, a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Montreal Expos. When the Montreal Expos moved to

Washington, DC, and became the Nationals, the Vermont Expos changed their affiliation and their name, becoming the Lake Monsters in 2004 and affiliated with the Oakland Athletics. When Major League Baseball elected to shrink the minor league in 2019, the Lake Monsters sadly lost their affiliation. The loss of affiliation and the prospect of the closure of the Lake Monsters were devastating for the baseball community in Vermont.

Luckily, the Lake Monsters seized the opportunity to join the Futures Collegiate Baseball League, bringing the team back to Centennial Field in Burlington after a 2-year hiatus. Quickly, a new coaching staff was hired, and a roster filled. The Lake Monsters returned to Centennial Field on May 21, beginning a fantastic season run that brought them to a championship title on August 20.

The Lake Monsters have garnered an immense following in Vermont and have become a mainstay of our community. The team, their games, and their fans have been an intrinsic aspect of the summertime fun for so many Vermonters. The resiliency of the Lake Monsters and their resounding victory in their return to the field, particularly at a time of such turmoil and uncertainty in our world, brings a welcome sense of joy, hope, and levity to our community.

Congratulations to the Vermont Lake Monsters for their championship victory; may your success continue for years to come. Vermonters will look forward to going to Centennial Field for a game next summer to enjoy some peanuts, Cracker Jacks, and a Lake Monsters win.

REMEMBERING CHRISTOPHER CARTWRIGHT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of Christopher Cartwright, who passed away in May 2021, at age 52. Chris was a dedicated civil servant with a brilliant mind, a vast well of patience, and boundless compassion. He spent most of his 30-year career with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and served most recently as the Director of NOAA's Budget Office.

Chris created an environment of trust and collegiality everywhere he went. He was unflappable in navigating the budget and appropriations process and always applied a calm and thoughtful approach to achieving NOAA's mission. Through it all, Chris was unfailingly kind and humble. His gentle leadership inspired his team and those around him to be better people, leaders, and public servants.

Chris was a proud graduate of Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, where last year he had the honor of leading the graduating class in recitation of the Athenian Oath. True to the oath he held so dear, Chris "strived unceasingly to quicken the public sense of

civic duty." We are grateful for his service.

REMEMBERING SUSAN BAYH

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I rise today in honor of one of the most beloved women in Indiana. An attorney, a First Lady, a wife, and a mother, Susan Bayh will always be remembered throughout Indiana for her grace and strength.

Susan Breshears was born in Los Angeles, CA, in 1959. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a juris doctorate from the University of Southern California. In 1978, she was named Miss Southern California. While working on Capitol Hill in the early 1980s, she met Evan Bayh. The two married in 1985. She became Indiana's First Lady in 1989, when Evan was elected Governor. In 1995, she gave birth to twins Birch Evans Bayh IV and Nicholas Bayh, becoming the first First Lady to have children while in office.

Susan was a talented attorney. She made a name for herself at some of the country's top law firms before joining Eli Lilly and Company to manage regulatory affairs. Later, she taught at Butler University and Indiana University. She passed away in February 2021 after a battle with brain cancer.

In Indiana, the Bayh name is famous, but as President Biden said, "Susan stood out as a single treasure." As Susan's loved ones and friends gather to remember her life at Washington National Cathedral this week, Hoosiers are grateful for the life she lived, the family she raised, and the legacy she has left behind.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ROB AND PAM STEPHENS

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I would like to honor the lives of Rob and Pam Stephens who were integral members of the Billings community. Both Rob and Pam had a passion for sharing their love of aviation with others. Tragically, on Sunday, September 26th, the Stephens were involved in a fatal plane crash with their son Riley. Riley was the only survivor.

With over 40 years of flying experience and more than 30 years as a professional airline pilot, Rob loved sharing his knowledge and expertise with others who aspired to become pilots themselves. In 2018, Rob founded Mission Aviation flight school, located at Montana's Laurel Municipal Airport, with the intentions of serving others in Yellowstone County who also wanted to pursue careers in aviation.

Most notably, Rob shared his skills and passion for flying with his two sons, Riley and Steele, both of whom have pursued their own careers in aviation and take pride in teaching the next generation of prospective pilots.

Rob and Pam will be dearly missed by their children Steele, Riley, and Piper, their friends in the aviation community, and so many more in the Billings area whose lives they touched. Piper recently served Montana as an intern in my Washington, DC office. As Riley continues to receive medical care, our prayers are with him and the entire Stephens family during this very difficult time. May God continue to bless and look over them.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 3755. An act to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

H.R. 5323. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

S. 2868. A bill to temporarily extend the public debt limit until December 16, 2022.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2218. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Telecommunications Provisions of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018" (RIN0572-AC48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2219. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Styrene-Maleic Anhydride Ethyl Amine Salt Copolymer; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8960-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2220. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Non-Discretionary Quality Control Provisions of Title